

## **AICS COVID protocol for both the primary and secondary school In place from 22 November 2021**

Dear AICS Community,

On 12 November 2021 the Dutch Government announced additional changes to the COVID restrictions. We have revised the AICS COVID protocols to reflect these changes and advice. This document replaces all previous AICS COVID protocols and FAQs.

### **National Corona Guidelines for Education**

As a Dutch International School we fall under the jurisdiction of the Dutch National Government, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the City Health Authority (GGD), the Municipality of Amsterdam and the National Educational Councils for Primary and Secondary Education. As such, we follow the guidelines of these authorities. We outline below what changes will take place.

#### *Reminder of protocols in primary education*

- If a child has tested positive, the child will remain at home in isolation. The child can return to school if symptom-free for at least 24 hours and seven days have passed since the symptoms started or the infection was established.
- Classmates of the infected child can all go to school. An exception may apply to children who have been in close contact privately (for example, if they have played at the home of the student who tested positive for COVID--19); advice on this is provided by the GGD for every individual situation.

#### *Additional protocols for primary and secondary education*

- Staying 1.5 metres from others is no longer required but is advised where possible.
- Students and staff are no longer required to wear a face mask in school, but they may wear one if they wish to.
- Quarantine rules have been tightened. When someone tests positive, the rest of the household needs to quarantine and get a PCR test immediately and another one after 5 days, if both test results are negative they can return to school.
- If a student is not deemed a close contact of a positively tested student they are expected to be at school. If they are absent, this will be marked as unauthorised absence.

### **Safety and Hygiene**

- Basic hygiene rules still apply and are encouraged (e.g. handwashing, thorough cleaning at the end of the day)

### **Ventilation in our school buildings**

All of our campuses have systems that meet the ventilation safety requirements. This means that there is no recirculation of air in any of our buildings. However, the advice is that we open windows and air rooms regularly as a standard procedure. Fresh air from the outside is the most direct way of replacing the air in a room.

### **The School Community**

#### Parents

- Parents may enter the building to support educational processes such as volunteering, workshops, exhibitions, trips, other school related events. We kindly request them to wear face masks.
- Appointments with a teacher/mentor will now take place online.
- As part of the introduction and admissions process, parents of new students are welcome to view our school on a video tour.
- Parents may not come into the building in the morning at drop off. For agreements regarding entry & exit times for specific campuses please see below.

- When entering the building on the agreed pick-up days, we encourage you to wear a mask and keep 1.5 metre distance from others.

### Entry & Exit

*Start and end times remain the same for Primary as listed below:*

- **South (Main):** Entry Group 2 to 7 8:15- 8:25 & Group 1 8:25-8:40; Exit classroom 15:15 (Wed 12:00)  
Teachers will use the following exit points:  
Group 1 - use the back stairs by Partou  
Group 2 - through reception  
Groups 4 & 5 - use the central stairs and through reception  
Groups 3, 6 & 7 - use the back stairs down to the fire exit
- **Satellite:** Entry 8:15-8:25 - all groups; Exit classroom 15:15 (Wed 12:00)  
All classes with external exits (Groups 4K, 4L, 5L at the front and Groups 3K, 5K, 7L by the canal) will continue to be collected from their classrooms at hometime every day using the external doors. The only difference for these classes is that now, where appropriate, parents can come into the classrooms. For groups 1K and 2K, parents are invited to collect from the classrooms at hometime on Mondays and Tuesdays. For groups 6K, 6L and 7K, parents are invited to collect from the classrooms on Thursdays and Fridays. All other days, collection takes place from the playground. Older siblings can join their younger siblings whether they are picked up in or out of the classroom.
- **South East:** Entry 8:35-8:45 - all groups; Exit classroom 15:30 (Wed 12:30)  
For groups 1-3, parents are invited to collect from the classrooms at hometime on Mondays and Tuesdays. For groups 4-7, parents are invited to collect from the classrooms at hometime on Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays all students will be collected on the playground. All other days, collection takes place from the playground. Older siblings can join their younger siblings whether they are picked up in or out of the classroom.

Students will be marked late if they arrive after the entry time.

### *For Secondary*

- No change. Secondary do not have adjusted start and end times.

### Staff

If staff develop COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are vaccinated they need to get tested **via the GGD**. If they are negative they can come back to school directly. If positive, the staff member can return to school once symptom-free for at least 24 hours and seven days have passed since the symptoms started or the infection was established.

For staff who are **not** considered to be 'immune', the advice is to do a self-test twice a week. Self-tests are available at reception free of charge.

### Educational Programme

- Onsite parent events are postponed. Events will take place online when possible.
- Educational activities/events will be considered per activity with the aim to support the educational process.

### Entering the Netherlands from abroad

If you are travelling abroad check [this](#) government approved website. Please be reminded that the school is not able to approve extraordinary leave for additional holidays. The AICS acknowledges the fact that its international community has a need to travel home and has therefore agreed to a 3 week winter break as well as a 2 week May break for our families in order to give them more opportunity to reconnect with family abroad.

### Testing and quarantine

For more information about the guidelines on testing and quarantine in English see:

[Government website](#)

[RIVM website](#)